

Wilkes Street Park Redesign

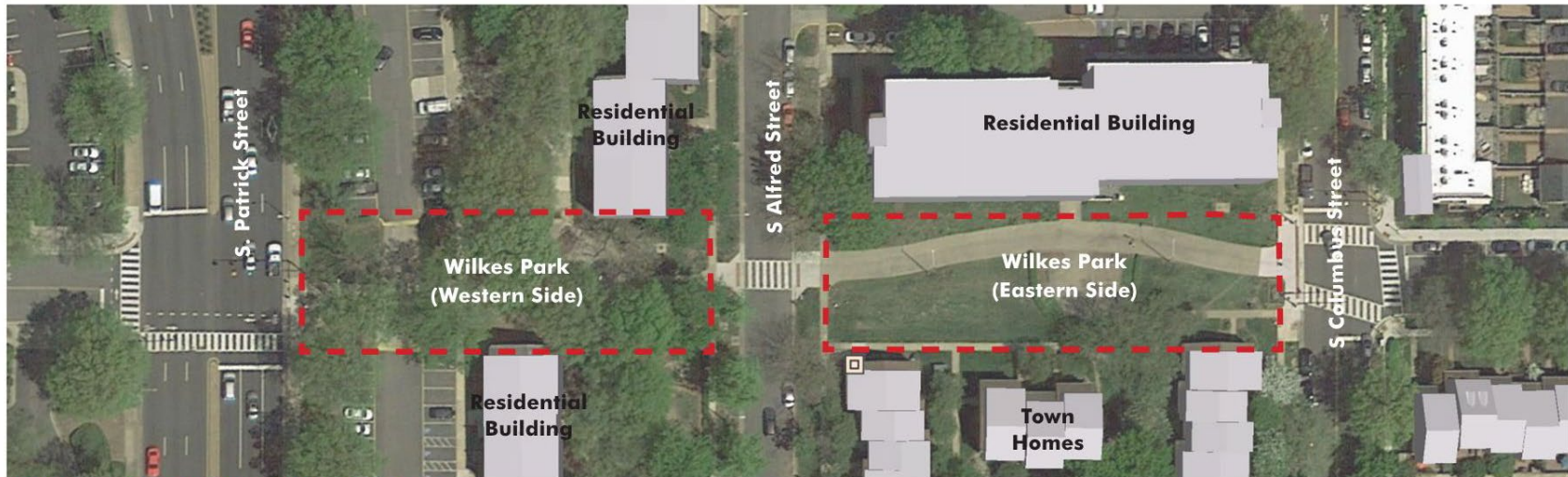
Park and Recreation Commission
January 21, 2021

Site Background

- Wilkes Street Park located in the southwest quadrant of the City.
- To the west of the site is South Columbus Street, to the east is South Patrick Street.
- The property is split into two parcels by South Alfred Street.
- Park is a 0.7 acres linear park with a multiuse path through the middle (part of the bike trail system in the City).
- The surrounding area has a lot of children and older adults.
- The area where the park is located was previously known as "The Bottoms."



Site Location



WILKES PARK LOCATION PLAN (EXISTING CONDITION)

Project Background

South Patrick Street Housing Affordability Strategy

- The South Patrick Street Housing Affordability Strategy states that the Wilkes Street Open Space “will be implemented by adjacent property owners through redevelopment with all applicable approvals.” (pg. 24)
- The City will lead a concept design of the two open spaces with the intention that the improvements would be implemented “in kind” by the adjacent property owners.
- The open space plans will contain a Phase I and Phase II design to allow for flexibility in implementation.



Design Guidelines

- Summer 2019, City staff met to learn about the park (staff from RPCA, Planning and Zoning, Transportation and Environmental Services, Archeology, Housing, etc.)
- Using each person's expertise, a list of design principles for the park was created



Design Guidelines

- Wilkes Street Park will be improved to include play areas, seating, open passive areas that will be designed to be accessible and accommodating to all ages and abilities.
- The improvements to the Wilkes Street public open space will incorporate the history of the neighborhood through interpretive design elements.
- Maintain the multiuse path as part of the park design. The path needs to accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists safely.
- RPCA 2019 Needs Assessment indicate the some of the strongest needs for Alexandria residents are walking trails and loops, outdoor public art, natural areas and access to nature.
- Park design will include shade, incorporate CPTED standards, and replace site furnishings with City standard furniture (including light poles).

Community Surveys

- Two online community surveys to collect input for the park's redesign



First Survey

- Used to gain insight on what the community would like the park to look like
- Survey was available from August 14 until September 11
- Input collected was used to create three design proposals



CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

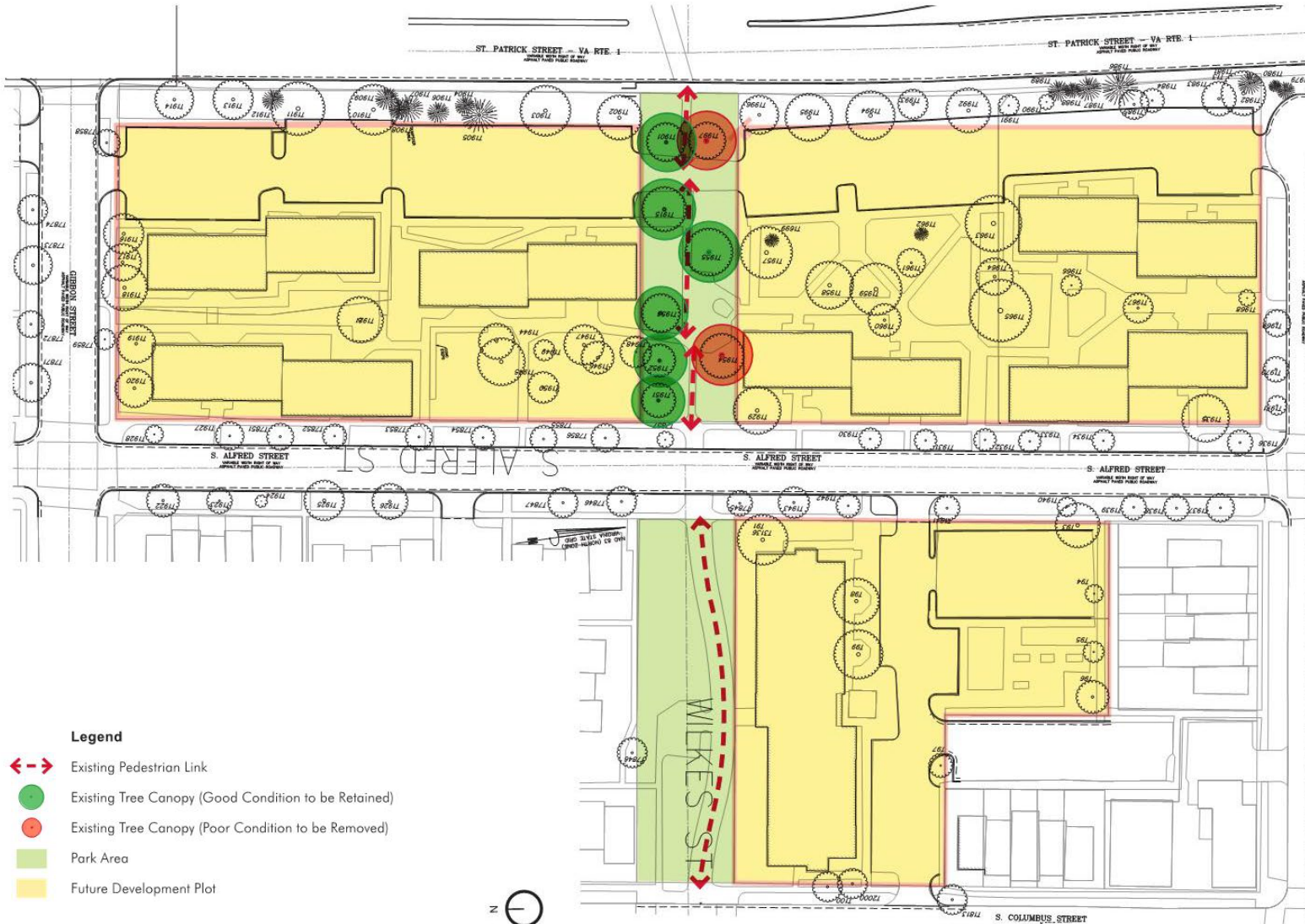


ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY



ACCESS TO NATURE

Tree Preservation & Removal



Option 1 Design



Legend

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Park Gateway - Entry signage | 7 Building Arrival | Woodland | Bird Boxes | Pollinator Planting |
| 2 10-12' (W) Main Park Shared Route (Pedestrian & Bike) | 8 Memorial Garden - Includes relocated veteran memorial rock. | Insect Hotel | Education Node | |
| 3 Feature Arrival Area - Shade Structure, Swings, Seating | 9 Multiuse Lawn - includes picnic tables and seating | | | |
| 4 Nature Play Area (All Ages) | 10 Buffer Planting | | | |
| 5 Interpretation / Resting Points | | | | |
| 6 Plaza (Raised Table) | | | | |

**Note: Wilkes Park Public Art component to be designed, located and installed through a separate process.*

Option 2 Design



Legend

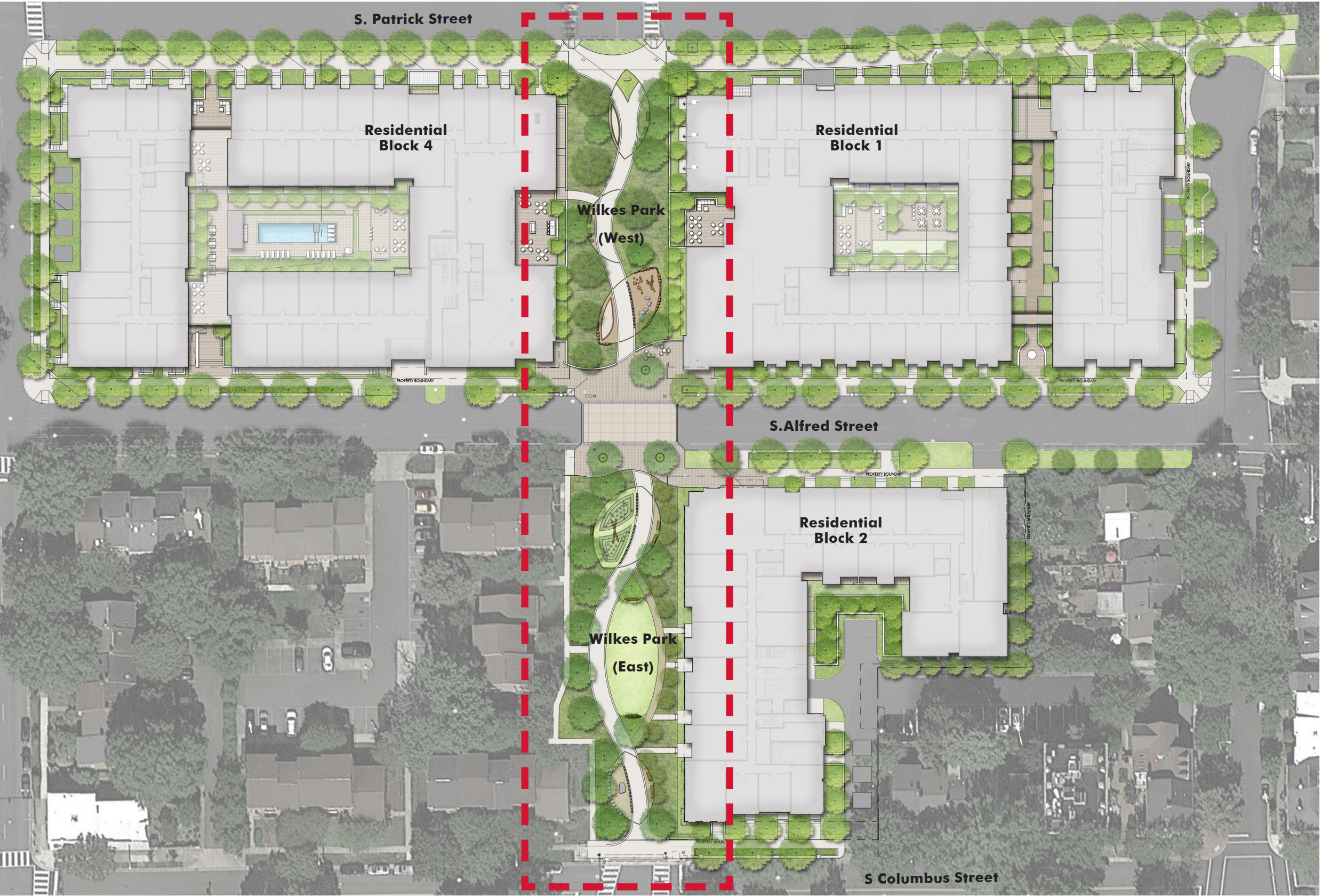
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|---|---|--------------|----------------|
| 1 Park Gateway - Entry Signage | 8 Plaza (Raised Table) | Woodland | Bird Boxes |
| 2 S Patrick's Plaza | 9 Building Arrival | Insect Hotel | Education Node |
| 3 5' (W) Pedestrian Park Pathway | 10 Memorial Garden - Relocated Veteran Memorial Rock. | | |
| 4 8' (W) 2-Way Cycle Route | 11 Picnic Area & Shelter | | |
| 5 Woodland Discovery with feature seating | 12 Multiuse Lawn | | |
| 6 Nature Play Area (All Ages) | 13 Buffer Planting | | |
| 7 Interpretation / Resting Point | | | |

*Note: Wilkes Park Public Art component to be designed, located and installed through a separate process.

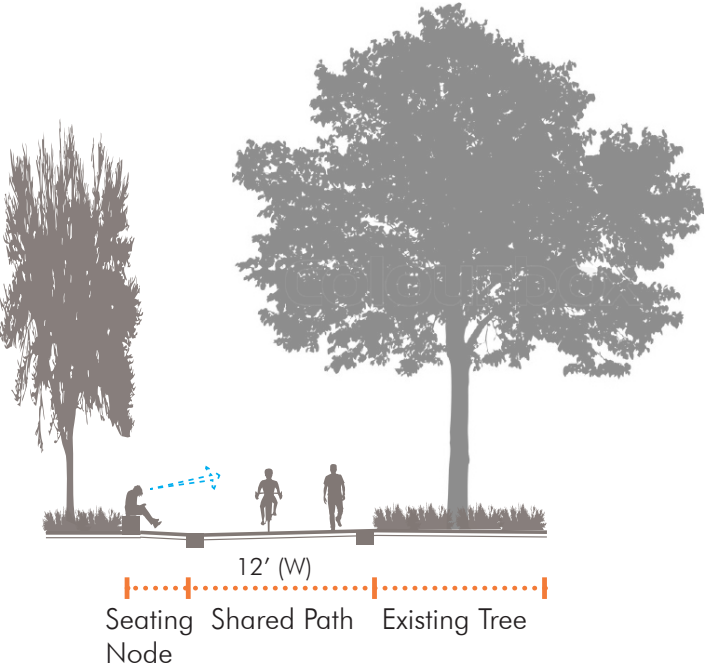
Second Survey

- Survey was longer and was used to have public weigh in on the two design options presented.
- The second survey was open from November 6 through December 4
- Survey results were almost equal, ultimately decided on Design 1
 - Contained transportation route, but allowed the park to still function as a park and not solely as a transportation route
 - The two paths reduce the amount of useable space in the park
 - Staff asked that the playspace be increased to accommodate neighborhood needs

HERITAGE AT OLD TOWN
OVERALL SITE PLAN



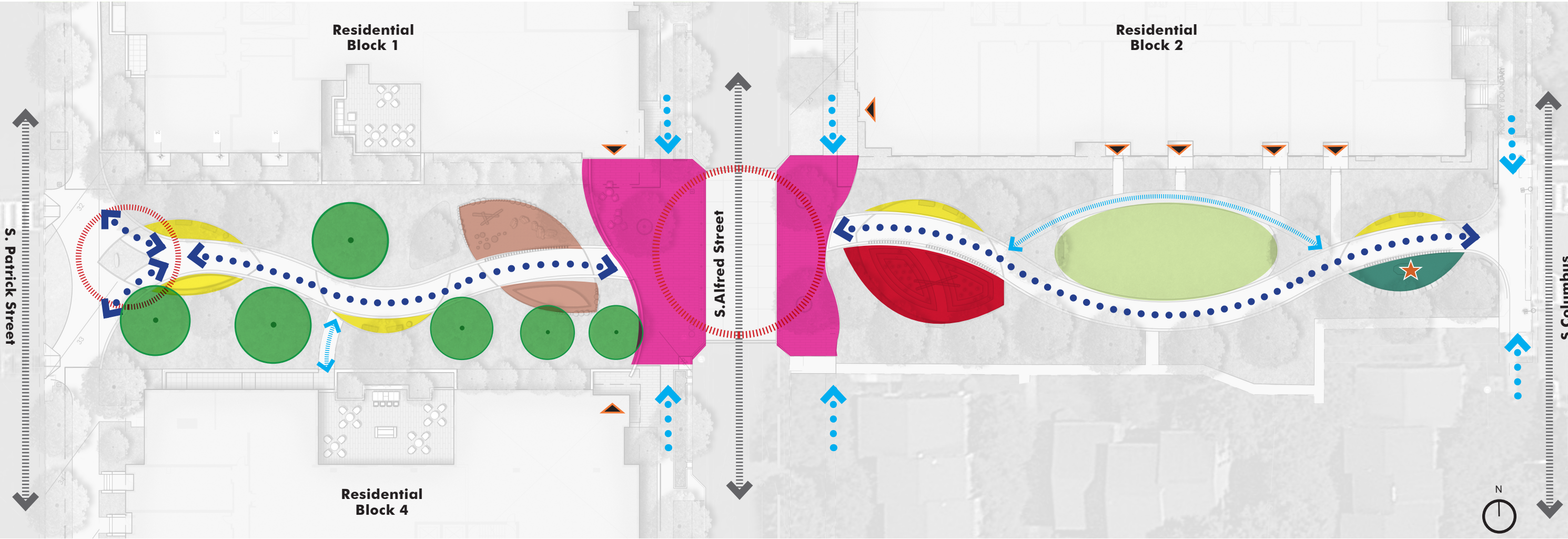
HERITAGE AT OLD TOWN
CONCEPT PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN



CONCEPT AIMS

- 12' (1'+10'+1') Shared pedestrian & bike route
- Creation of Linked Small to Medium Spaces
- Mix of Active and Passive Program
- Retain Existing Trees

Legend	
	Pedestrian Route (Street)
	12' Main Park Shared Route (Park)
	Secondary Park Route
	Vehicular Route (Roadway)
	Park Gateway Note
	Building Entry / Egress
	Plaza
	Education Node / Seating Area
	Nature Interpretation Area (For All Ages)
	Play Area (For All Ages)
	Central Lawn Area
	Memorial Garden
	Relocated Memorial
	Existing Tree to be Retained



FRAMEWORK PLAN NTS

**Note; Wilkes Park Public Art component to be designed, located and installed through a separate process.*

HERITAGE AT OLD TOWN

CONCEPT PARK PLAN



ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN NTS

- Legend

1

Park Gateway - Entry signage

2

12' (W) Main Park Shared Route (Pedestrian & Bike)

3

Feature Arrival Area - Shade Structure & Seating

4

Nature Interpretation Area (All Ages)

5

Resting Points

6

Plaza (Inc. Raised Table)

7

Building Arrival

8

Play Area (All Ages)

9

Memorial Garden - Includes relocated veteran memorial rock.

10

Multiuse Lawn - includes picnic tables and seating

11

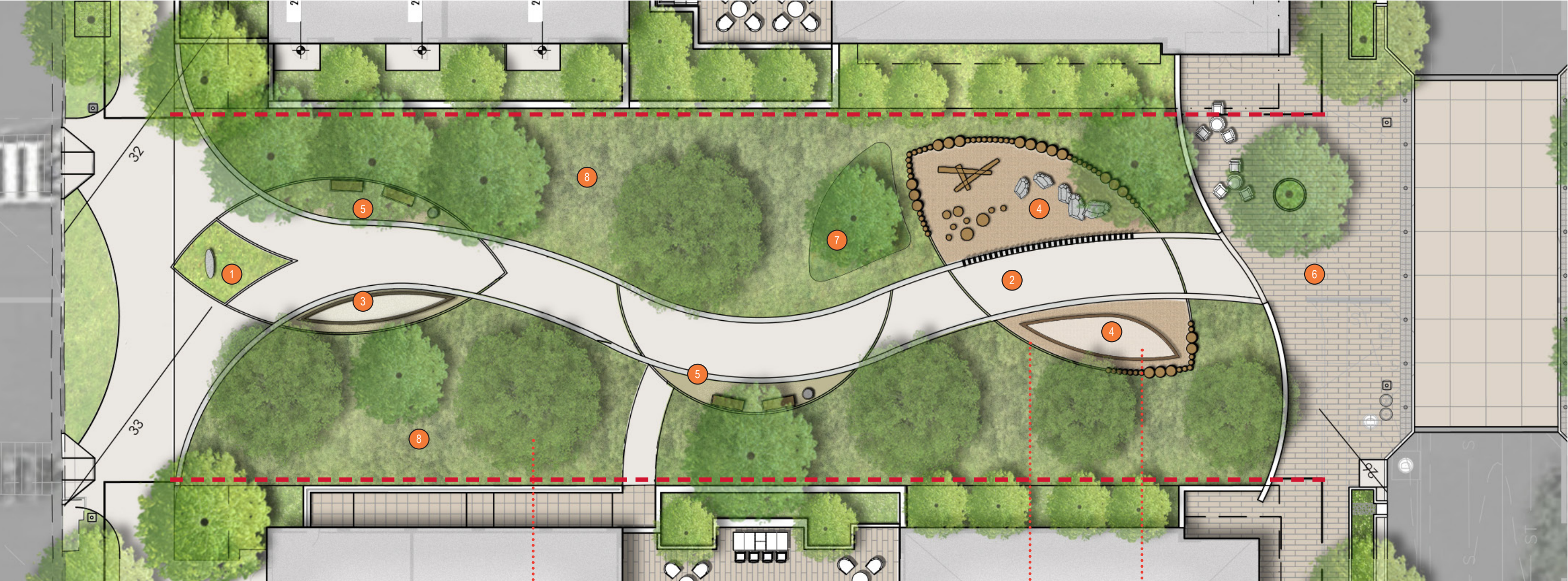
Buffer Planting

12

Stormwater Basin

**Note; Wilkes Park Public Art component to be designed, located and installed through a separate process.*

HERITAGE AT OLD TOWN
BLOW-UP PARK PLAN (WESTERN)



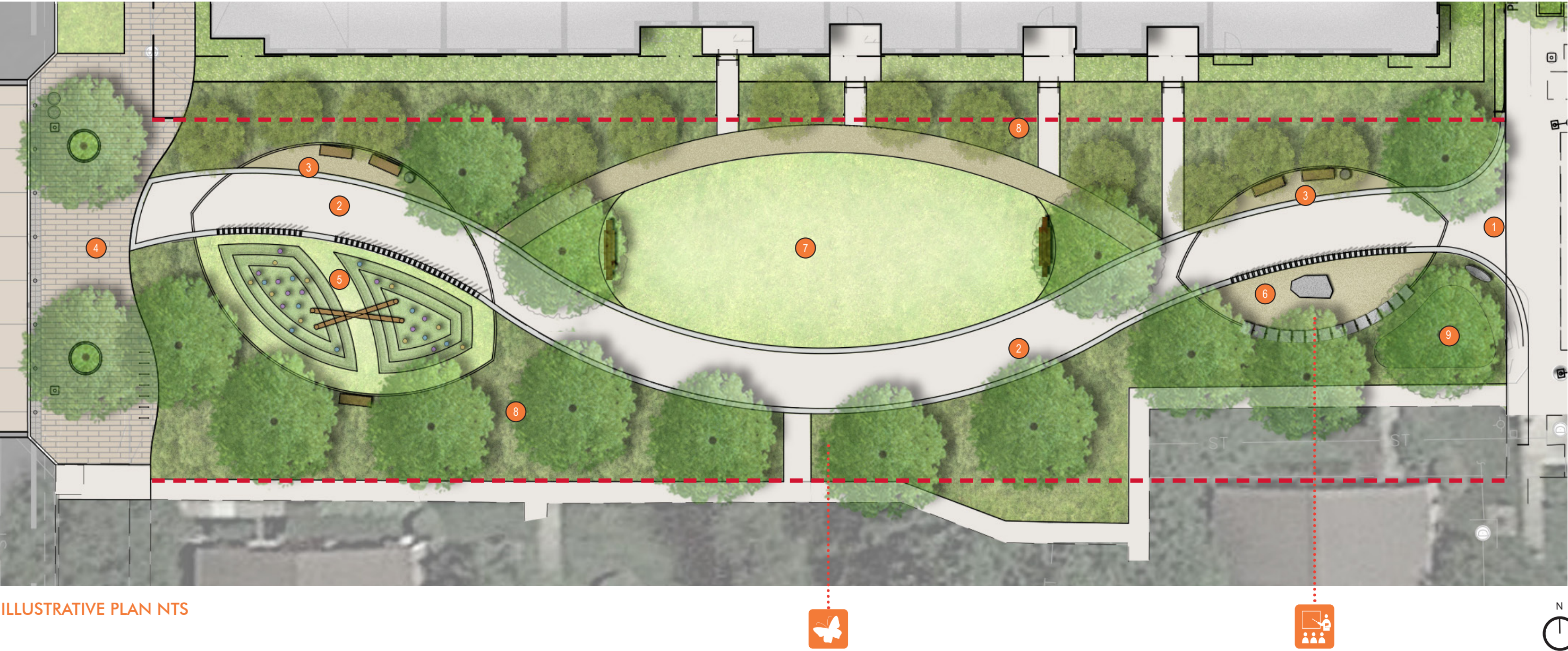
ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN NTS

- Legend**
- 1 Park Gateway - Entry signage
 - 2 12' (W) Main Park Shared Route (Pedestrian & Bike)
 - 3 Feature Arrival Area - Shade Structure & Seating
 - 4 Nature Interpretation Area (All Ages)
 - 5 Resting Points
 - 6 Plaza (Inc. Raised Table)
 - 7 Stormwater Basin
 - 8 Woodland Planting Area
- Woodland
- Bird Boxes
- Insect Hotel
- Education Node
- Property Line




HERITAGE AT OLD TOWN
PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES



HERITAGE AT OLD TOWN
BLOW-UP PARK PLAN (EASTERN)



ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN NTS

- Legend**
- 1 Park Gateway - Entry signage
 - 2 12' (W) Main Park Shared Route (Pedestrian & Bike)
 - 3 Resting Points
 - 4 Plaza (Inc. Raised Table)
 - 5 Play Area (All Ages)
 - 6 Memorial Garden - Includes relocated veteran memorial rock.
 - 7 Multiuse Lawn - includes feature swings
 - 8 Meadow Planting Area
 - 9 Stormwater Basin
-  Meadow
-  Education Node
-  Property Line

HERITAGE AT OLD TOWN
PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES



PRECEDENT IMAGERY

Park Planning Process

- **Pre Planning**

- **August 13:** RPCA hosted a virtual kick-off meeting with the community.
- **August 14 – September 11:** RPCA received input through Community Survey

- **Planning Process**

- **September 17:** RPCA present the park project and survey results to the Park and Recreation Commission.
- **September 18 – October 16:** Using the public input, the developer design team prepare design options for the park.
- **November 5:** RPCA host a second community meeting with the applicant design proposals for the park.
- **November 6 – December 4:** A second online survey and public engagement is conducted asking for community feedback on the design options.
- **December – January:** Developer design team prepare a final park design using community input collected.
- **January 21:** RPCA present final park design to the Park and Recreation Commission for public hearing.
- **February 18:** RPCA present final park design to the Park and Recreation Commission for endorsement.

Staff Comments

- Further refine the playspace design
 - Include play elements and locations
 - Include barriers if within 30' of road
- Ensure CPTED compliance

Public Art Process

NEW PUBLIC ART COMING SOON

alexandriava.gov/publicart



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The Office of the Arts is a Division of the Alexandria's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

Commission Action

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission formally endorse the Wilkes Street Park design as presented by staff.

Questions